CANADA: IMVE threats in the context of public protest s.38

s.38

s.38 open-source reporting identified ideologically motivated violent extremism (IMVE) actors among the thousands of people present from 28 to 30 January 2022 at the "Freedom Convoy" on Parliament Hill in Ottawa. Following a weekend during which police identified approximately 1,000 incidents of concern that led to police intervention, the volume of protesters on Parliament Hill has diminished—ranging from a few dozen to a few hundred at any given time. s.3

Key Developments

- IMVE symbolism has been spotted in crowds, including the Nazi swastika, the Three Percenters (3%) flag and the Confederate flag. s.38
- International protests in support of or inspired by the rally in Ottawa have taken place in some Western countries, including the United States and Australia. s.38
- Open-source information indicates that Romana Didulo and Chris Sky, both key individuals within Canada's anti-vaccine and anti-government conspiracy theory cohorts, are making their way to Ottawa to support the protests. Didulo has stated that she will arrive in Ottawa on Thursday, 3 February 2022. s.38
- Counter-protests have occurred and continue to be planned. s.38
- Although there is mention online of convoys destined for Toronto and Quebec City, it appears that organizers are conflicted over whether to concentrate on Ottawa or expand. s.3

Nazi flag at "Freedom Convoy" rally. Other flags read "Don't Tread on Me" and "F*** Trudeau."

Source: Reddit s.38

s.38

ASSESSMENTS

- ITAC continues to assess that a coordinated, complex terrorist attack or a planned storming of Parliament or other federal locations is unlikely. The most likely IMVE-related scenario involves an inspired lone actor using available weapons and resources such as knives, firearms, homemade explosives and vehicles in public areas against soft targets, including opposition groups or members of the public. s.38
- Opportunistic, low-level violence is possible in the National Capital Region (NCR) between 3 and 7 February 2022, based on the potential presence of IMVE adherents, frustration from some protesters that the protest is not achieving their desired outcomes and citizens' potential aggravation with the situation. We note the use of flags or other paraphernalia does not necessarily indicate specific membership in a group or movement. s.38
- While we judge that it is highly likely that IMVE adherents known to authorities will attend ongoing protests in Ottawa, it is more likely that they will use the opportunity to meet with likeminded people, recruit others to their causes and conduct propaganda activities rather than conduct a lethal attack.s.38
- We assess that, over time, most protesters will return to their places of residence, leaving a core of committed protesters in the NCR. Anti-government conspiracy theorists will realize that their desired political outcomes will not be met, which could result in increase in tensions with law enforcement.s.38
- We judge that the presence of key anti-government conspiracy theorists, namely Didulo, has the potential to inflame tensions. Their words or altercations with police could become trigger points for lone actors with basic intent and capability to harm others in the name of a variety of extremist ideologies.s.38
- With respect to possible convoys destined for other major cities including Toronto and Quebec City, ITAC judges that, to ensure public safety, authorities will take measures to avoid the gridlock circumstances of Ottawa's downtown core, leading to the likely staging of trucks on highways and arteries to city centres. This reduces the opportunity for IMVE lone actors to conduct unsophisticated attacks close to public gatherings near symbolic targets such as legislatures.s.38

Terrorism Threat Levels

Canada ⟷ **MEDIUM** ⟷ **MEDIUM** *Threat levels as of 1 December 2021.* s.38

- An act of terrorism **COULD OCCUR**s.38
- There is intent *and* capability from both domestic and international extremist actors to commit an act of terrorism in Canada.s.38
- An act of terrorism directly affecting ***uniformed personnel*** in Canada **COULD OCCUR**.s.38

- Intelligence indicates that an individual or group **within Canada** or abroad has the intent *and* capability to commit an act of terrorism in Canada. There remain individuals both in Canada and abroad who advocate violence and aspire to carry out terrorist attacks domestically. ITAC notes that inspired individuals typically act alone or in relatively small groups, and that attack planning can progress quickly, and may go undetected. **ITAC assesses that an act of terrorism could occur *in* Canada**.s.38
- Propaganda identifying **uniformed personnel** as potential targets continues to be published online. ITAC notes that there are indications of intent to target uniformed personnel in Canada. Notwithstanding, ITAC assesses that, at present, uniformed personnel are more likely to be targeted incidentally while performing their duties. **ITAC assesses that a violent act of terrorism affecting *uniformed personnel* in Canada could occur**. s.38

ITAC's Probability Yardstick tool contributes to the understanding of the threat by providing readers with a common understanding of ITAC's probability statements.

THREAT LEVEL

established | raised | lowered | remains

LEVELS	DESCRIPTIONS	LANGUAGE
CRITICAL		ITAC assesses that a violent act of terrorism is **HIGHLY LIKELY** and **COULD OCCUR IMMINENTLY**.
HIGH	*Intelligence indicates that an individual or group within Canada or abroad has the **intent AND capability** to commit an act of terrorism.*	ITAC assesses that a violent act of terrorism is **LIKELY**.
MEDIUM		ITAC assesses that a violent act of terrorism **COULD OCCUR**.
LOW	*Intelligence indicates that an individual or group within Canada or abroad has either the **intent OR capability** to commit an act of terrorism.*	ITAC assesses that a violent act of terrorism is **POSSIBLE BUT UNLIKELY**.
VERY LOW	*There is no intelligence indicating a terrorist threat.*	ITAC assesses that a violent act of terrorism is HIGHLY UNLIKELY.

ITAC's Threat Level chart defines each threat level and describes the assessed likelihood of a violent act of terrorism. ITAC uses both quantitative and qualitative analysis in applying terrorism threat levels. Threat levels are determined based on several factors, including current intelligence, recent events, and the assessed intent, capabilities and opportunity available to terrorist groups. ITAC cautions that its information may be incomplete and, regardless of the threat level applied, a violent act of terrorism may occur with little or no warning. See Confidence Levels.

CONFIDENCE LEVEL

CRITERIA	INTELLIGENCE	SOURCES	ASSUMPTION	REASONING
HIGH	multiple reports; well-corroborated information; range of reporting types; historical understanding of the issue; good understanding of the risk of deceptive reporting	proven and accurate	few; minimal intelligence gaps	strong logical inferences developed through analytic techniques or repeatable methodology
MEDIUM	multiple reports; partially corroborated plausible information; some historical understanding of the issue, some risk of undetected deceptive reporting	proven and semi-proven sources that have been fairly accurate	several, not critical to the analysis; some intelligence gaps	includes weak logical inferences developed through analytic techniques or repeatable methodology
LOW	few or single-source reports; uncorroborated information; some historical understanding of the issue; considerable risk of undetected deceptive reporting	semi-proven sources that have been somewhat accurate, or new, unproven sources	many; some critical to the analysis	dominated by weak inferences developed through analytic techniques or repeatable methodologies

ITAC's Confidence Levels chart outlines statements that accompany each ITAC product to inform the reader of ITAC's degree of confidence in its assessments. These levels are based on an evaluation of the available intelligence, the sources, and ITAC's assumptions and reasoning.

TERRORIST GROUP CAPABILITIES

ADVANCED	Capable of sophisticated attacks, including against hard targets
MODERATE	Capable of high profile attacks against soft targets
GENERAL	Capable of simple attacks

ITAC's Terrorist Group Capabilities chart describes the capabilities of a terrorist group to conduct an attack in a particular country where the group has already demonstrated intent. This metric is based on the methodology used to establish ITAC's terrorism threat levels. For the purposes of this metric, capability is defined as "the ability, capacity, competence or qualification" of a group to perpetrate a particular attack.

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Any feedback should be directed via CTSN email to s.38

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